

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 VO-03 SCA-01 /026 W
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R 071730Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 377

CONFIDENTIAL BERLIN 5214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, GE, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TOUR OF U.S. BY BERLINER ENSEMBLE

1. ON FEB. 4, EMBOFF LEARNED FROM AN OFFICIAL OF REISEBUERO DER DDR THAT THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE BERLINER ENSEMBLE (AKA COMPANY OF THE BERTHOLD BRECHT THEATER) MAY BE ARRANGING A TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES SOME TIME IN EARLY 1975. REISEBUERO OFFICIAL DID NOT KNOW WHO THE U.S. IMPRESARIO MIGHT BE. THIS GROUP WOULD NUMBER ABOUT 150 PEOPLE.

2. THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR CULTURAL PRESENTATION BY A DISTINGUISHED, AND INDEED WORLD RENOWNED, THEATRICAL GROUP, WHICH WOULD BE OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY AN ORGAN OF THIS GOVERNMENT. AS SUCH, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR NEWLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THIS EVENT IS ONE OF FOREIGN POLICY SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE WE HAVE NOT YET HAD DEFINITE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS TOUR WILL IN FACT OCCUR, WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS CULTURAL EVENT IS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY.

3. AFTER PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF THIS POSSIBILITY, THE EMBASSY'S REACTION TO SUCH A TOUR IS POSITIVE. IT COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BEGINNING TO THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONS AND IDEAS WHICH CLEARLY IS A FACTOR IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HERE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT OUR ARRANGEMENTS IN U.S. WOULD BE MADE BY AMERICAN IMPRESARIO.

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4. AS THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE APPROACHED, WE REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE
ON WHETHER WE
SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND ENCOURAGING ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A TOUR TAKING PLACE. WE EXPECT
THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD REQUIRE WAIVERS
FOR VISA INELIGIBILITIES TO BE ABLE TO GO TO THE
UNITED STATES.COOPER

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